



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Educators arrive Saturday for inaugural France-Wisconsin International Teacher Seminar

MADISON—The arrival of educators from France for school and community visits across the state heralds the start of the first teacher exchange seminar between France and Wisconsin.

Twelve schools throughout the state will host the French educators. The visiting teachers all teach English in their native country. The 12 teachers and directors of international education, Christian Melka of L'Académie d'Aix-Marseille, and Liliane Meunier of L'Académie de Bordeaux, will arrive Saturday (Oct. 25). They will spend a week in their host communities teaching French language classes, sharing information about modern day France, and interacting with their host families and communities. The second week of the exchange will include professional development through a Department of Public Instruction-led seminar on "Democracy and Democracy Education in the United States." The visiting educators will attend the fall conference of the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers, Nov. 6-8, in Appleton before departing for home.

"The excitement of learning the language and customs of another country becomes a richer experience when shared face-to-face," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "This inaugural international seminar offers opportunities for students and teachers in both Wisconsin and France to gain intercultural experiences that will provide a foundation for further exchanges and strengthen our international ties."

In 2007, Wisconsin exported more than \$400 million in state products to France and Belgium, countries that are among the state's top 10 trading partners. Those business relationships, along with modern technological advances that allow for instant communication, require cultural understanding and language awareness. The France-Wisconsin International Teacher Seminar is one of several approaches to ensure Wisconsin students gain global literacy skills.

(more)

Burmester signed Memoranda of Understanding with Recteur Jean-Paul de Gaudemar of L'Académie d'Aix-Marseille, and Recteur William Marois of L'Académie de Bordeaux, in April 2006 to open possibilities for language and cultural exchanges for teachers and students.

"Cooperative educational programs between Wisconsin and our partner schools in France will be of mutual benefit. They have the potential to foster new practices that expand the international dimension of teaching and professional development. These activities will help us prepare our students for today's interconnected and interdependent world," Burmaster said.

A list of schools and exchange teachers participating in the first France-Wisconsin International Teacher Seminar follows. A visit of Wisconsin's participating French language teachers to France is being planned for the summer of 2009.

#### **L'Académie d'Aix-Marseille**

##### **Hartford Union High School**

Host Teachers: Jamie Pittman and Coral Loebel  
Exchange Teacher: Helene Burani of  
Lycée Jean-Henri Fabre, Carpentras

##### **Middleton High School**

Host Teacher: Stephanie Bartholemew  
Exchange Teacher: Anne Perrier of  
Lycée de la Mediterranee, La Ciotat

##### **North High School, Sheboygan**

Host Teacher: Linda Bernard-Olson  
Exchange Teacher: Ann Marie Caro of  
Lycée Rene Char, Avignon

##### **Pilgrim Park Middle School, Elm Grove (Elmbrook)**

Host Teacher: Jackie Dove  
Exchange Teacher: Brigitte Flocmoine of  
College Jean Guehenno, Lambesc

##### **Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac**

Host Teacher: Deborah Johnson-Bousquet  
Exchange Teacher: Ghislaine Peyrano of  
Lycée Professionnelle Emile Zola, Aix en Provence

##### **Shorewood High School**

Host Teacher: Margaret Schmidt-Dess  
Exchange Teacher: Helene Mus of  
Lycée Alphonse Benoit, L'Isle sur la Sorgue

#### **L'Académie de Bordeaux**

##### **Central High School, Brookfield**

Host Teacher: Mary Mann  
Exchange Teacher: Susan Hayter of  
Lycée Charles Despiaud, Mont de Marsan

##### **La Follette High School, Madison**

Host Teacher: Mary Alice Sicard  
Exchange Teacher: Martine Roufenché of  
Lycée Max Linder, Libourne

##### **Lake Geneva Middle School**

Host Teacher: Jeanine Kopecky  
Exchange Teacher: Hafida Blidi of  
College Jules Ferry-Terrasson

##### **Lake Mills High School**

Host Teacher: Ellen Onsrud  
Exchange Teacher: Clarisse Vuidard of  
Lycée Sud des Landes Vincent de Tyrosse

##### **Lincoln High School, Manitowoc**

Host Teacher: Jaci Collins  
Exchange Teacher: Sebastien Smiejzak of  
Lycée Francois Mauriac, Bordeaux

##### **Neenah High School**

Host Teacher: Erin Meillon  
Exchange Teacher: Catherine Marty of  
Lycée Rene Cassin Bayonne

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